

Patricia Duffy

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a registered nurse who has worked in hospice care for the past 3 years. It is with a great deal of concern for the last several years that I have been watching the pro-death forces trying to foist assisted suicide onto our state. As a nurse who has worked with the dying I wish that people could see what a risky thing it is to advocate for assisted suicide. What is an option (suicide) can quickly become a duty when the chips are down. Not to mention the potential for real abuse and even murders, which will go undetected due to the nature of these deaths. There will be no signs of a struggle. Just think how easy it will be for a family member(s) or close acquaintance to kill a person for monetary gain. And it is well documented in all places where assisted suicide is commonplace how some of these occur in persons who have not even requested them, but the decisions are made by doctors or nurses. Consider this: I have had the experience of working with the most notorious serial killer in US history: Charles Cullen, a nurse who is serving consecutive life sentences for his murder of over 40 people. Passing a bill like this almost makes one think that maybe Charlie shouldn't be in jail after all....

People can and are kept quite comfortable with well-managed hospice care. What a tragedy we have on our hands as a society when we choose to make the most important decisions based not on reasoning but emotion. This is SUCH a departure from age-old wisdom, the idea of "relieving" the pain of others by killing them. People in ages past also could have done that, but they knew something that so many people today have seemed to forget: the inherent dignity of the person. And the value of suffering in bringing real growth to our lives and relationships. It is an important part of being human. Let's care for others, not kill them.

Sincerely,
Patricia Duffy RN
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